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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 MMO-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /030 W
----------034180 191646Z /50
R 181229Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO FAS/USDA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3485
AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 12605

FROM AGATT FOR COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND RECORDS
PASS PARKER, ESCS
BOMBAY FOR AG OFFICER

WRAL: CERP SECTION D; IN-8058

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

REF: NEW DELHI 12284

1. MONSOON WAS ACTIVE DURING WEEK ENDING AUGUST 16. WEATHER ZONES RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ROSE TO 23 OUT OF 35, SIX OVER PREVIOUS WEEK. EXCEPTIONS WERE BAY ISLANDS, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, NORTHERN PARTS OF WEST BENGAL, HILLS OF WESTERN UTTAR PRADESH, JAMMU AND KASHMIR, GUJARAT STATE, SOUTHEAST MAHARASHTRA, TAMIL NADU, COASTAL AND SOUTH INTERIOR KARNATAKA AND LAKSHADWEEP WHERE RAINFALL WAS DEFICIENT FROM 20 PERCENT TO 75 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL.

2. CUMULATIVE RAINFALL JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 16 WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL OVER ENTIRE COUNTRY EXCEPT FOR EASTERN GUJARAT AND NORTHERN PARTS OF WEST BENGAL WHICH WERE
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DEFICIENT 32 AND 22 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY. WEATHER ZONES WHICH RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION ACCOUNTED FOR 95 PERCENT OF TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL PRODUCTION (COMPARED TO 97 PERCENT IN COMPARABLE PERIOD OF 1977), USING DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF PRODUCTION DURING 1970-71, AS A BASE.

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3. ORISSA AND CENTRAL MAHARASHTRA, WHICH HAD BEEN EXPERIENCING BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL FOR SEVERAL WEEKS RECEIVED ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION (PLUS 86 PERCENT AND PLUS 36 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY) DURING WEEK UNDER REVIEW. GUJARAT, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO RECEIVE BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL (EAST MINUS 57 PERCENT AND WEST MINUS 75 PERCENT). THE DEARTH OF OOISTURE IN THIS STATE FOR SEVERAL CONSECUTIVE WEEKS HAS LED TO APPREHENSION OVER EFFECT ON PEANUT AND FOODGRAIN CROPS. SOME REPORTS HAVE INDICATED DRY SPELL HAS ALREADY TAKEN TOLL, BUT THESE CONCLUSIONS COULD BE PREMATURE. FOR EXAMPLE, METEOROLOGICAL DEPT OFFICIAL TOLD MEMBER OF AGATT STAFF THAT EASTERN GUJARAT RECEIVED FAIRLY WIDESPREAD RAINS ON AUGUST 17 RANGING FROM 1 INCH TO 9 INCHES. IN WESTERN GUJARAT, THE PRINCIPAL PEANUT PRODUCING AREA OF THE STATE, AND THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE, RAINFALL RANGING FROM 1 INCH TO OVER 3 INCHES WAS REPORTED RROM AT LEAST 6 WEATHER STATIONS. THIS SHOULD REVIVE STANDING CROPS AND HELP OVERCOME MUCH OF THE SETBACK.

4. FLOODS HAVE OCCURRED IN PARTS OF ASSAM, BIHAR, WEST BENGAL, UTTAR PRADESH, HARYANA, RAJASTHAN AND PUNJAB DURING CURRENT SEASON. CROP DAMAGE COINCIDES WITH SEVERITY OF FLOODING, BUT IS LOCALIZED. ON BALANCE, CROPS OVER MOST OF THE COUNTRY ARE IN GOOD CONDITION.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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